

Church News

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fund, the congregation is wonderfully uplifted by the fine fellowship of the afternoon and evening spent at the manse.

Goodwater: Our church here has but few members and is now without a pastor. The meeting was much hindered by frequent rains, bad roads, and a very destructive storm a short distance in the country, which destroyed much property and killed and injured a number of persons. The friends of the other churches united with us and our attendance was most encouraging. Some of our members assisted me in house-to-house visitation. We visited a number of homes, having in each a word of prayer, besides going to all the places of business. We received three adult members and baptized five children. Some promised to erect family altars and many pledged themselves to better lives. Arrangements were made to organize a Young People's Society. They already have a Sunday-school and a Ladies' Aid Society. The sum of \$8 was contributed for incidentals and \$48 for Presbyterian Evangelistic work. My next appointment is with Rev. David Park, of Fairfield, Ala., to assist him at his Thomas church. If any church in North Alabama Presbytery desires my services, write to Rev. W. C. Clark, 115 South Sixtieth Street, Birmingham, Ala., as he is the chairman of the Evangelistic Committee.

Wm. H. Richardson.

ARKANSAS.

Combs: One by one the stones are coming in for our new building, and we will rejoice, oh, so very, very much, when we can have a place that seems something like home. We have two men getting out stone and one man plowing and getting ready to put in a crop, as we are expecting several hungry mouths to feed this next winter. Since locating here in the Boston Mountains and starting our school year before last, we have noticed quite a number of homeless children that were sore in need of homes, so we have turned our school into a mountain school and orphanage. There was no excuse we had to offer the Master for not caring for his lambs, so we have agreed to take them as they are brought in, trusting in him to supply our needs through his children. We have forty acres of good mountain land six miles from Combs, in a needy mountain settlement, where they need both school and church. Now, why not share with us in the glorious work for the Master? You can put at least one stone in our building. One great big square stone one foot each way will cost on an estimate in the building fifty cents. Every dollar builds two square feet of the wall and its proportion of finishing cost. Just picture its walls before you now and then ask our God how much He would have you to build. Does it not pay to be interested in the things our blessed Lord is interested in? And does He not love these little ones here on the mountain top? Address all communications to Rev. or Mrs. J. E. Jeter, Sunday-school missionaries, Combs, Ark.

Fort Smith, Sulphur Spring: Two additional officers have recently been elected, ordained and installed in this church, namely, Mr. W. S. Scott, elder, and Mr. Hayden Terry, deacon. We have also recently had several valuable additions to the membership. The annual every member canvass for church funds will be made in March.

C. H. Maury, Pastor.

Dermott: All the churches of Dermott engaged in a Bible conference and Sunday-school institute from February 26th to March 2d. Rev. J. P.

Robertson, D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church at Morrilton, delivered two lectures daily on the Bible, and all who heard him declared it a real treat. Every lecture was a masterpiece within itself. In these days of scepticism and modern infidelity every town in Arkansas would do well to get this man of God deliver his great lectures on the Bible.

Rev. Clem Baker, Sunday-school expert of the Little Rock Conference of the M. E. Church, South, conducted the Sunday-school Institute and his splendid talks were both educational and inspirational. It is the purpose of the Dermott churches to make this conference an annual affair.

W. A. R.

Pine Bluff Presbytery: Report blanks for the spring meeting of Pine Bluff Presbytery, which meets in Warren on Friday, April 13th, 7:30 P. M., have been mailed to every church in the Presbytery. If any church failed to receive its blanks and will write the stated clerk a second set will be sent.

William A. Rolfe, Stated Clerk.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Gypsy Smith, Jr., Campaign: Gypsy Smith, Jr. (Albany Rodney Smith), is a son of his father, the well-known Gypsy Smith. The father is preaching to the soldiers in the ally trenches of Continental Europe. The son has been, beginning Sunday evening, January 28, conducting a month's evangelistic campaign in Washington, D. C.

Comparisons are said to be odious. None, therefore, will be attempted in this case any farther than to say that any comparisons that may be made between the two would be in no wise disparaging to either. The son has been in the ministry only four years; the future brightly beckons.

The Gypsy's campaign in Alexandria, eight miles away across the Potomac, attracted Washington's attention. Men went there from here, heard, saw, and were conquered; and the evangelist was invited to conduct a campaign at the capital under the auspices of the Washington City Presbytery. But all the Presbyterian churches—U. S. A., U. S. and U. P.—became sponsors, there being twenty-six, all told, in the District. Invitations were officially extended to other denominations to participate, and the cordial responses were such as befit the spirit of unity and the bonds of peace. Truly, these brethren love one another.

At a meeting when the preliminary negotiations were going on, Gypsy was asked to what denomination he belonged. He declined to say any farther than that he was a member of the Church of Christ. In all his ministry there was not a thing that smacked of sectarianism. He was finely and broadly—broad, not in the loose, but in the evangelical sense of that word—finely and broadly Christian, first, last, and all the time. The present writer had knowledge that he took his theological course at a Baptist seminary. Most clearly he was none the worse for that.

And in the negotiations the idea of building a special tabernacle for the meetings met with rather strenuous opposition, it being held that as the campaign was to be under the auspices of a denomination, the meetings should be held in the churches of that denomination and in different parts of the city, so as to meet the needs of the scattered constituency; and there were other reasons. But the tabernacle idea prevailed, and—for reasons which we would like, but space does not permit, to give—amply vindicated and justified itself. Surely a tabernacle is the thing.

There were men who readily came forward to underwrite the cost of the

structure and so obtain at a bank the needed ready money. In a week's time a building 160 by 100 feet was put up at the contract price of \$3,575. Bills for heating, lighting and other appliances were incurred to the amount of \$431. Outside, the building was a blot on the landscape; but inside, as to acoustics, seating, warmth, illumination, etc., it met surprisingly well the purpose for which it was erected. There were seats for 3,000, which included a platform with raised seats for a choir of 300 voices. Standing room allowed more, so that the daily papers reported on several occasions that as many as 5,000 were present; and it is said that there were times when as many were outside as inside. Overflow meetings were held in a near-by Episcopal church.

Other preparations for the coming of the evangelist were adequately conceived and well executed. The chairmen of the committees were: Rev. Dr. John C. Palmer, moderator of the Presbytery and pastor of the Washington Heights church, executive committee; Rev. Titus E. Davis, Westminster, publicity; Rev. S. A. Bowers, Northminster, prayer meeting; Rev. Dr. H. E. Brundage, Eckington, personal workers; Rev. Dr. A. E. Barrows, Eastern, music; and Mr. F. E. Edgington, a deacon of the New York Avenue church, director of ushers. These chairmen were efficiently assisted by their brother committeemen. The chairman of the executive committee was foremost in opportunity and conspicuity all through, and, were he not making such a success as pastor at Washington Heights, one might think he had mistaken his calling and should be in a large position as a captain of industry. Cottage prayer meetings were planned and held for a preceding month in different parishes of the city; classes of personal workers were trained; rehearsals brought singers into harmony; and, withal, all the pre-evangelist machinery seemed wisely devised and well lubricated.

On the Sunday evening that the meetings opened, all the Presbyterian churches of the city dismissed their services, giving a fine demonstration of unity and interest, and, with a few justifiable exceptions, this practice continued through the five Sundays; and also most of the mid-week prayer meetings were merged into the tabernacle movement.

The editor asks for my "Impressions of the man and his method of work." Favorable, most favorable. Of course, many things were said and done that did not command entirely the approval of us staid, hyper-refined folk, and that would have been tabooed if said and done in a church; but in a tabernacle—that is different. When a speaker is painting for a promiscuous crowd, the colors may need to be laid on thick and with a white-wash brush; fine camel's-hair pencil work won't do. College and high school yells wouldn't sound good in a church, but they did not seem so very much out of place in the tabernacle, i. e., after we got a little used to them. Companies of marching boy and girl scouts, led by a juvenile brass band playing "Onward, Christian Soldiers"—albeit in spots a little lame in tone and time—would hardly befit the aisles of a carpeted, be cushioned, frescoed sanctuary, but in the rough-boarded, unpainted, sawdust-besprinkled shed, the kids stirred the crowd—a lot of D. D.'s were clapping their hands!—to uproarious enthusiasm. *Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis*—the times change and we change with them. Really, isn't it the part of wisdom—if we can do so—to make youthful effervescence pop itself out on the Lord's side?

As to the matter of the evangelist's preaching: All that we call the "fun-

damentals"—the trinity, deity of Christ, atonement, man's lost estate and salvation by grace, repentance, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, the eternal awards of the righteous and the wicked—these and accordant doctrines were set forth in white-light clearness and with intense earnestness. The word "separation," which seems to have dropped out of so many Christians' vocabulary and some seem never to have heard of, he restored and voiced with unmistakable emphasis. Worldly indulgences, social frivolities, moral laxnesses, all that militates against Christian correctness, he castigated with unsparing severity; and many professed believers will henceforth lead different lives. No criticism did I hear of Gypsy's soundness. He is all right.

His methods were not extreme, but simple, kind, winning, just such as befitted his purpose in leading sinners to Christ and restoring to the normal, i. e., Scriptural, Christian life, those who had departed therefrom. I heard a minister, who had worked through several revival campaigns and with the foremost evangelists from Moody down, say that he liked Gypsy, Jr., best of all.

The music, led by Professor Forrest Cole, accompanied by his left-fingered pianist, was a powerful adjuvant. Rodeheaver's "Songs for Service" was the book used.

As to what has been accomplished, no system of mathematics has yet been devised to solve the problem of the spiritual values of X Y Z contained in the tangible plus intangible results.

Of "trail-hitters" the tabulation has not been completed at the present writing. All told, 831 cards have been turned in, which are designated to be delivered to some 196 different churches and organizations. About 200 of these cards are of children under 12 years of age. The Saturday afternoon children's meetings were events of great moment. Of the remaining 631 cards, it is thought that over half represent "reconsecrations," and if so, about 300 denote *de novo* converts. If this should seem disappointing as to bulk, let it not for a moment be forgotten that these figures do not include all the elements in the problem.

For instance: A pastor had a young married couple in his congregation that he had not thus far reached. He invited them to go with him to the tabernacle one evening. They sat together. He proposed that they walk home, a mile or more, which gave him his opportunity. Before he left them at their residence they both surrendered themselves to Christ. They came before his session at its next meeting and united with his church. How many experiences of like winning-to-Christ character may there not have been, which are not subject to committees' tabulation! He has been sixteen years in the ministry and has never had a communion without accession to his church. If all pastors were of this evangelistic type there would be far less need of evangelist's "campaigns." May the tribe increase!

All the outgoes, except the free-will offering to Gypsy on the last Sunday, were combined under the head of "expenses," which amounted to \$5,170, and these were met by the voluntary collections at the services; so the underwriters were not out a cent. I know what was given to Gypsy, but I won't tell. He wishes the matter should not be made public, so that one place may not be played off against another in raising funds for him where he may work. His good sense, with which he seems plentifully endowed, revolts against all suspicion of graft or mercenaryness as pertaining to him. Suffice it to say that he was most

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